

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

American Government - 2 semesters

Prerequisite: None

Content: The first semester focuses on the formation and purposes of governments as well as the creation organization and powers of the Legislative and Executive Branches of the Federal Government. Second semester focuses on the Federal Judiciary, rights and responsibilities as a citizen, and concludes with a unit dealing with geography; specifically the five themes of geography and how they relate to our everyday lives.

Goals: The purpose of this class is to acquaint the student with an understanding of the institutions of democracy found in the federal, state, and local governments and the organizations of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of each level of government in our society, and how they work in relationship to the individual citizen.

U.S. History - 2 semesters

Prerequisite: American Government or its equivalent.

Content: A study of the major historical events from approximately 1861-1933 is presented in the first semester and a study of the major historical events from 1933 to the present is presented in the second semester. In both semesters a special effort is made to correlate the influences of the political, social, and economic factors to our world today. This final required social studies class is designed to give students a broad understanding of our nation's history. It primarily deals with our history from the post Civil War/reconstruction era to the present. This course focuses on the diversity of our history in the last century. The course will look at the various problems our country has faced and how we have solved them.

Goals: To provide the student with an understanding of how our country developed from the past to the present.

Cost: *A \$2.00 current events fee is charged each year for students in social studies classes. This \$2.00 fee covers magazine subscriptions, book purchases and video/DVD fees in all classes.*

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Sociology - 1 semester

Prerequisite: U.S. History. Open to all students.

Content: Basic Sociology including sociological technique and research, culture, groups, personality, social class and the family. Students will analyze social problems and issues to better understand behavior. Students will learn to factually and rationally discuss the problems and issues of human behavior. Students will through role-playing, case studies, videos, simulations, etc. explore and seek to understand other peoples' points of view. Students will learn to listen to controversial issues, gather data, and factually not emotionally respond to issues with which they do not agree. Students are tested in some cases on their ability to see the other person's point of view without necessarily accepting it.

Goals: Students will learn to factually and rationally discuss the problems and issues of human behavior.

Ancient History - 1 semester

Prerequisite: U.S. History. Recommended for college-bound students.

Content: Early Human development, Egyptian Society, Mesopotamian Society, Greek Society, and Roman Society are examined. Students will be able to develop a system of note taking that allows them to prepare for comprehensive single question essay question tests. Students will analyze various procedures for preparing and taking an essay test as a means of finding a system that will work for them in content oriented college courses. Students will be graded on not only the essay's content but on the form of the essay itself. A paper of 1200 - 1500 words, with three to four sources, and in appropriate college term paper style is also required.

Goals: To allow the student to understand the development of people and society from pre-historic to classical times of Greece and Roman.

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Medieval History - 1 semester

Prerequisite: U.S. History. Recommended for college-bound students.

Content: A study of the political, social, and economic development of people and their society from the Fall of Rome up to the Renaissance. Requires research papers and a creative writing assignment. Students will work often times in small groups and use the library to analyze various medieval writings including biographies, philosophizes essays, journals, etc.; comparing and contrasting the ideas found in those writings to modern day concepts. Students will be able to describe medieval life and thought in broad categories, supporting this with facts found in the readings. Students, ultimately, will be able to describe the Medieval World in the context of people and ideas noting, those ideas that were unique to that era and those that are common to humanity at any time.

Goals: To provide the student with an understanding or the development of people and their society from the Fall of Rome to the Renaissance.

Revolutions - 1 semester

Prerequisite: U.S. History. Recommended for college-bound students.

Content: This course will cover the Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution, French Revolution, Age of Discovery, World War I and the Russian Revolution, and the Chinese Revolution. Students will be able to develop a system of note taking that allows them to prepare for a comprehensive single question essay test. Students will analyze various procedures for preparing and taking an essay test as a means of finding a system that will work for them in other content oriented college courses. Students will be graded on not only the essay's content but on the form of the essay itself. The students will write a paper of 1,200-1,500 words, site three to four sources, and use appropriate college term paper style.

Goals: To allow the student to understand the development of people and society during the Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution, French Revolution, Age of Discovery, World War I and the Russian Revolution, and the Chinese Revolution.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

American Issues - 1 semester

Prerequisite: U.S. History. Open to all students.

Content: A study of the history of political parties, contemporary affairs, foreign policy, ethics in politics, and world affairs and their influences on the U.S.A. today will be an emphasis. The ability to rationally discuss current issues in American policy from a factual and research base not an emotional base. Reading, debate, library research, and small group discussion are emphasized in this class.

Goals: Students using current events materials will explore important trends in modern America. Students will analyze our country today focusing on current events issues. Programs like "60 Minutes" and "Frontline" and news magazines like U.S. News and World Report and Newsweek will be used as a starting point for student discussion and research. In presidential election years a major emphasis will be placed on the fall election.

Contemporary World Issues - 1 semester

Prerequisite: U.S. History. Open to all students.

Content: Students will learn how to use current information and historical background to make reasoned judgments about current problems and issues in the world. Students will learn to rationally and factually discuss world issues without resorting to bias or bravado. Students will seek through research, discussion and lecture to understand others points of view concerning contemporary world issues. Students will, hopefully, have a greater awareness and appreciation for the global climate in which they live.

Goals: To be aware of current occurrences across the globe. Also to provide background on U.S. foreign policy and the people and organizations which shape it. Students will have an understanding of problems facing the world today, as well as, a historical understanding for conflict in different regions of the world.

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Geography - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing.

Content: A study of the history of the social, economic, and political structure of nations representative of several continents and countries of the World. Examples: Africa, U.S.A., South Asia, Australia, etc. In the process of studying these nations and their locations, the history of each culture is stressed. A special emphasis is given to the many cultures that have enriched the U.S. Students will review map-reading skills and be able to locate the major landforms and countries on a map and globe. Students will analyze through videos, films, articles, and projects the great diversity of cultures in the world today, determining those things that are similar in all cultures and those things that may differ from culture to culture. Students will investigate the concept of socioeconomic change in US geography and determine which trends will have an impact on their lives.

Goals: To provide the student with general understanding of the economic, political, and social structure of other nations of the world. The student will be made aware of the international world today. Students will be required to show basic map skills.

A P. Psychology - 2 semesters

Prerequisite: US. History. Junior or senior standing and consent of instructor.

Content: The course uses a college level text: Myer's Psychology. Materials are of a college level and will vary from the physiological workings of the brain and nervous system-to the abstract workings of the mind. Historical study will be included focusing on the works of a variety of early Psychologists. Segments on infant and child development as well as abnormal psychology will be included. The final portion of the course will focus on social psychology including multicultural diversity. An emphasis on critical analysis of human behavior and critical application of higher order thinking skill will be emphasized. Students will be expected to read and retain material at a much higher level than in non-advanced placement classes. Students taking this course will be able to sign up for the Advanced Placement Psychology Test given in May of each year. *(continued on next page)*

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A P. Psychology (continued)

Goals: The goals of this course are to examine the ***mental processes and behaviors of individuals in*** society today, and to prepare for the AP Psychology Test given in May. This test, which costs the students about ***\$86***, can earn them three college credits in ***most universities depending on their score.***

AP Macroeconomics - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Junior or senior standing and U.S. History 10. Recommended for college-bound students. Recommended for all students planning post-high school degrees in Business, Accounting, or Political Science. Students are **strongly recommended** to take both Macro and Micro as a year course.

Content: The course uses a college text: McConnel and Brue, Economics which is coordinated with the Advanced Placement Instructional Package. In this national curriculum, students will discuss the GDP, unemployment, inflation, the role of consumers, business, and government in the macro economy, international trade, taxes, the Federal Reserve, national debt, and the deficit. Students will focus on problems solving and critical thinking skills in this course. Serious economic problems such as national debt, inflation/stagflation, recession, depression, trade imbalance, taxing and savings rate, banking reform, etc. will be explored with potential solutions to the economic problems presented. Students will be tested based on their ability to logically apply various economic theories to real world problems.

Goals: To provide the student with an understanding of the U.S. Economy, its measurement and manipulation on a national level using Keynesian, Classical, and Monetarist Economic policies, and to prepare students for the AP Macroeconomics Test given in May. Students passing this test, which costs about \$80, can earn four college credits in many universities depending on their score.

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AP Microeconomics - 1 semester

Prerequisite: Macroeconomics. Recommended for college-bound students. Recommended for all students planning post-high school study in Business, Accounting, or Political Science. Students are **strongly recommended** to take both Macro and Micro as a year course.

Content: The study of the laws of supply and demand are expanded and focused on, the role of business and markets, theory of the firm and factors of production, choices between Wages, Labor, and Capital, Externalities, Public v Private Goods, Tax Shifting. Students will focus on problem solving and critical thinking skills in this course. Various microeconomic concepts such as individual and business supply/demand, elasticity, and markets will be explored with potential solutions to economic problems presented using marginal analysis. Public and private goods as well as taxes and their impact will also be studied. Students will be tested based on their ability to logically apply various economic theories to real world problems.

Goals: To continue the study economics begun in Macroeconomics with the focus changing to individuals and businesses in the American Economy. To prepare for the AP Micro and Macroeconomics Tests given in May. A single test fee of about \$80 covers both the Micro and Macro AP tests. Students can earn up to a total of eight college credits in UW system schools, if they pass both tests. It is recommended, though not required, that Micro and Macro economics be taken in the same year if a student is going to select the AP option, continued review of Macroeconomic principles is incorporated into the Microeconomic curriculum which helps keep this first semester's material fresh for the May AP Exam.

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